Senator Ge

"We don't know whe
but we're on

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"We don't know where we're going but we're on the way"

A DELIRIOUS EXCURSION

We shall have arrayed against us in the coming campaign our ancient and hereditary enemy, the Democratic Party. In addition we shall be called upon to contend with some former associates who have concluded to abandon their amiable custom of firing upon the flag they have been following in order that they may engage in the more honorable, but no more effectual, occupation of assaulting it from the front. For the next few months our ears are to be filled with the voice of the malcontent, strident and many-keyed, calling upon the people to forsake the tried and beaten paths of constitutional government, along which they have walked with sure feet for more than a century, and enter upon a personally conducted pilgrimage through the political wilderness to a promised land as shadowy and unsubstantial as a desert mirage.

The advance agents of this delirious excursion tarried a few days at Chicago, long enough to pool their individual grievances, visions, and vagaries in a bewildering farrago of impractical political nostrums such as never before has been collected at one time outside the violent wards of a madhouse. And thus the so-called Progressive Party was born, its sole excuse for existence being the unfounded claim that its nominee for the Presidency was defeated for a like nomination by stolen votes at the Republican convention.

I can not, of course, take the time to discuss this claim in detail and point out its utter and reckless falsity. The overwhelming majority of the national committee, the credentials committee, and the tribunal of ultimate appeal, the convention itself, after the most thorough and patient consideration, decided, and fairly decided, against this contention. Of the delegates elected for Mr. Taft, 238 were contested. Of these contests, 164 were rejected as wholly

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without merit. Mr. Roosevelt's own friends on the national committee joining in the decision. Mr. Roosevelt himself, although acquiescing in the filing of contests against 24 Alabama delegates, openly stated, after the national committee had unanimously seated 22 of them, that he had only counted on 2 delegates for himself and exhibited a list in which 22 were conceded to President Taft. Why were these 22 and the remainder of the 164 confessedly frivolous contests instituted?

The Washington *Times*, a Munsey newspaper, and an ardent supporter of Mr. Roosevelt, ingenuously furnished the explanation, namely—and I quote the exact statement:

> "For psychological effect, as a move in practical politics, it was necessary for the Roosevelt people to start contests in these early Taft selections, in order that a tabulation of delegate strength could be put out that would show Roosevelt holding a good hand."

Larceny for "psychological effect" is something quite new in the history of penology.

In other words, more than two-thirds of all the contests which were instituted were known to be fraudulent from the beginning. Though instituted for "psychological effect," they were apparently continued before the national committee for more practical reasons. It is difficult to imagine a more indecent attempt to dishonestly deprive duly elected delegates of their seats and secure unelected Roosevelt delegates in their places. In view of this conceded attempt to steal 164 of the delegates, it might not be unreasonable to require something more than the mere assertion of the unsuccessful freebooter to demonstrate the merit of the remaining 74 contests.

It would be a strange rule of evidence which would require us to accept the testimony of a buccaneering psychologist who confesses to an attempt to purloin the larger portion of an honest man's property as conclusive evidence of the psychologist's title to the remainder of the honest man's possessions.

There never has been in all history a more unique convention than that of the Progressive Party at Chicago. Heretofore, when a party has been organized, its organizers have in advance entertained at least a suspicion respecting their principles: but the delegates to this convention, wholly ignorant of the things for which they stood, waited with patiently folded hands, the appearance of Mr. Roosevelt in the convention to tell them what they believed. Upon his appearance he was received with reverent adoration. With a spirit of self-abnegation never witnessed since the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava— a "Their's not to reason why, their's but to do and die" sort of exaltation, led by the Grand Young Man from Indiana, devout but tuneful, the assembled vassals proclaimed their joyous intellectual surrender to the feudal lord in the following hymn of driveling irresponsibility:

Follow, follow,
We will follow Roosevelt,
Anywhere, everywhere,
We will follow him.

Follow, follow,
We will follow Roosevelt,
Anywhere he leads us
We will follow on.

All of which being chanted to the ravishing air of that stirring ditty entitled, "We don't know where we're going, but we're on the way," wrought the multitude into such a state of blind and benighted idolatry that authentic information to the effect that the colonel had just waylaid a perfectly respectable minister of the gospel and robbed him of his last month's donations would have brought forth enthusiastic cheers for the colonel and a vote of stern condemnation for the man of God as the representative of a dangerous and iniquitous plutocracy.

In form 2,000 delegates, more or less, gathered in the Colliseum; in reality Mr. Roosevelt met in convention at Chicago, made a confession of faith, gave his hand to the colored brother

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from the North and his foot to the colored brother from the South, adopted a platform, nominated himself and Brother Johnson, and adjourned with the ease of a thoroughly trained thimble-rigger plying his vocation among the rural visitors to the midway plaisance.

The campaign upon which we are about to enter presents issues of more serious moment to the American people than any they have confronted since the grave questions which immediately preceded and accompanied the Civil War. The overshadowing question then was whether the Union, under the Constitution, could be perpetuated; that which confronts us to-day is whether the Constitution itself, and the Government which the Constitution established, shall be preserved—a question of equal if not greater gravity, since it would be of little avail to have preserved the Union from the chaos of disintegration if the Government of the Union is to be given over to the chaos of disorganization.

The party to which we belong, Mr. Vice-President, stands in this supreme contest for the independence and integrity of the judicial tribunals of the land, without which the guaranty of life, liberty, and property would be a meaningless platitude. It stands for the settled rule of impersonal government, as opposed to the shifty opportunism of personal manipulation; for the liberty and order of general law, as against the tyranny of special edicts of changing men. It plants itself upon the impregnable ramparts of the Constitution and, solemnly protesting against any subversion of the terms of that great compact by the arrogant and revolutionary process of amendment by misconstruction, appeals from the midsummer madness of that portion of the people which can be fooled all the time to the sober second thought of the great body of the American electorate who will render judgment in November.—*From speech of Senator George Sutherland, of Utah, notifying Vice-President Sherman, of his nomination. Congressional Record, Second Sess.*, 62d *Congress*, p. 12766.

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